

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Title: Device and Method for Sectioning a Vertebral Lamina

Application No.: 10/575,065

Filing Date: April 7, 2006

Inventor: Paolo Mangione

Assignee: LDR Medical

Examiner: TBD

Art Unit: TBD

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Angela Trampel

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Pursuant to the guidelines for Information Disclosure Statements, 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, attached hereto is Form PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B (2 sheets) with references listed for consideration by the Office.

Pursuant to Official Gazette Notice No. 14, dated August 5, 2003, copies of the listed written U.S. references are not enclosed. However, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), copies of the listed written foreign references and publications are being provided.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g)-(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b) or prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103.

The examiner should also be aware of the following co-pending applications:

App. Ser. No. 10/276,712 filed 03/26/2003;
App. Ser. No. 10/473,999 filed 04/12/2004;
App. Ser. No. 10/483,563 filed 05/21/2004;
App. Ser. No. 10/476,565 filed 06/08/2004;
App. Ser. No. 10/492,827 filed 07/15/2004;
App. Ser. No. 10/492,753 filed 08/09/2004;
App. Ser. No. 10/498,234 filed 12/07/2004;
App. Ser. No. 11/051,710 filed 02/04/2005;
App. Ser. No. 11/098,266 filed 04/04/2005;
App. Ser. No. 11/109,276 filed 04/18/2005;
App. Ser. No. 11/180,868 filed 07/13/2005;
App. Ser. No. 10/533,846 filed 11/11/2005;
App. Ser. No. 11/341,007 filed 01/27/2006;
App. Ser. No. 11/362,253 filed 02/24/2006;
App. Ser. No. 10/570,080 filed 02/28/2006;
App. Ser. No. 11/378,165 filed 03/17/2006;
App. Ser. No. 11/390,711 filed 03/27/2006;
App. Ser. No. 10/575,065 filed 04/07/2006; and
App. Ser. No. 10/494,418 filed 07/22/2004.

Commonly owned App. Ser. No. 10/060,862 filed 01/30/2002 issued as U.S. Pat. No. 7,037,340 on 05/02/2006.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the following documents being submitted, and to the references cited therein (which are also submitted herewith):

1. FR 2 860 701 Preliminary Search Report, National Institute of Industrial Property (France), May 25, 2004;

2. PCT/IB2004/003244 International Search Report, EPO, March 24, 2005;
3. PCT/IB2004/003244 Written Opinion of the International Searching Report, EPO, March 22, 2005; and
4. PCT/IB2004/003244 International Preliminary Report of Patentability, WIPO, April 10, 2006.

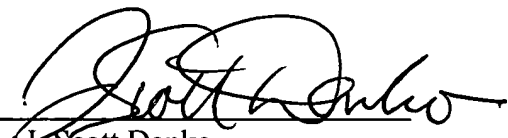
The foregoing items 1-4 are search and examination reports relating to this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before receipt of the first Office Action on the merits, so no fee is believed to be due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required in connection with the filing, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3534, upon which account the undersigned has the authority to sign. **Duplicate copies of Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are enclosed.**

Respectfully submitted,

ANDREWS KURTH LLP

May 16, 2006
Date

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/575,065
				Filing Date	04/07/06
				First Named Inventor	Paolo Mangione
				Art Unit	TBD
				Examiner Name	TBD
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	LDR/12/US / AK 165456

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-4,586,497	05/06/1996	Dapra, et al.	
		US-5,722,977	03/03/1998	Wilhelmy	
		US-6,126,664	10/03/2000	Chesnut, et al.	
		US-6,258,094	07/10/2001	Nicholson, et al.	
		US-6,261,293	07/17/2001	Nicholson, et al.	
		US-6,610,089	08/26/2003	Liu, et al.	
		US-6,673,075	01/06/2004	Santilli	
		US-6,679,887	01/20/2004	Nicholson, et al.	
		US-6,800,093	10/05/2004	Nicholson, et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 2002282263 A	10/02/2002	Japan		✓
		WO 05034771 A1	04/21/2005	PCT		
		FR 2860701 B1	01/06/2006	France		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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				Examiner Name	TBD
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	LDR/12/US / AK 165456

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		FR 2 860 701 Preliminary Search Report, National Institute of Industrial Property (France), May 25, 2004	
		PCT/IB2004/003244 International Search Report, EPO, March 24, 2005	
		PCT/IB2004/003244 Written Opinion of the International Searching Report, EPO, March 22, 2005	
		PCT/IB2004/003244 International Preliminary Report of Patentability, WIPO, April 10, 2006	
		Laminotome de Mangione (website) 1 page, www.ldrmedical.fr/mobidisc.htm, September 19, 2004	

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